

**I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:**

1. A mammography compression plate comprising:  
four lateral sides connected to a base, each of said four lateral sides  
having a width and a length, with a first of said lateral sides  
being adapted for connection to a mounting bracket; and  
said four lateral sides including two lateral sides that respectively  
terminal at said first of said lateral sides, each of said two lateral  
sides having at least a portion of said width slanted inwardly  
toward said base.
2. A compression plate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said portion  
comprises a lower portion of the width of each of said two sides.
3. A compression plate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said portion  
is slanted at an angle in a range between 20° and 40°.
4. A compression plate as claimed in claim 3 wherein said portion  
is slanted at an angle of 24°.
5. An x-ray diagnostic device for mammography examinations  
comprising:  
a supporting stand;  
an arm moveably mounted to said supporting stand;

an x-ray tube and a subject table attached to said arm spaced from each other;

a compression plate disposed between said x-ray tube and said subject table;

a bracket connecting said compression plate to said arm and allowing movement of said compression plate relative to said subject table to allow compression of a female breast between the compression plate and the subject table; and

said compression plate comprising four lateral sides and a base, with a first of said lateral sides being connected to said bracket and two of said lateral sides respectively terminating at said first of said lateral sides, said two lateral sides each having a width with portion thereof slanted inwardly toward said base.

6. A compression plate as claimed in claim 5 wherein said portion comprises a lower portion of the width of each of said two sides.

7. A compression plate as claimed in claim 5 wherein said portion is slanted at an angle in a range between 20° and 40°.

8. A compression plate as claimed in claim 7 wherein said portion is slanted at an angle of 24°.